

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (ROGERS, WILLIAM P.)

SUBJECT: RADIO/ TV HIGHLIGHTS

ROUNDUP P. M. AND A. M., MAY 24-25 WORLD NEWS: IN THE INTERNATIONAL MIXING BOWL NO IMPORTANT ACTIONS OR INTERACTIONS REPORTED. THOUGH THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATERGATE RECESSED FOR TWO WEEKS YESTERDAY AFTERNOON IT CONTINUED TO BE THE IMPORTANT STORY WITH SKYLAB REPLACING IT THIS MORNING. ON THE DOMESTIC- INTERNATIONAL SCENE THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE RETURNED POWS RECEIVED WIDE COVERAGE AND COMMENT ON THE EVENING OF MAY 24. IN THE MINOR KEY CBS REPORTED ON THE INAUGURATION OF CAMPORA AND NOTED THE PRESENCE OF THE SECRETARY; THE UK- ICELAND " COD WAR" WAS REPORTED ON, ESPECIALLY THE BRICK THROWING ATTACK ON THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN REYKJAVIK WHILE THE SEX SCANDAL IN THE UK GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO WELL COVERED; CBS REPORTED FROM SAIGON THAT MR. NIXON HAD SENT THIEU A SUMMARY OF THE PARIS CONVERSATIONS BEFORE SULLIVAN'S ARRIVAL AND THIEU FOUND THEY DID NOT UNDERMINE HIM; FROM ATHENS THERE WERE SEVERAL REPORTS FROM CBS THAT THE PLANNED MILITARY COUP HAD BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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BROKEN UP BY THE GOVERNMENT; AND WITH SOME JUBILATION THE NEWS MEDIA REPORTED THAT THE US HAD HAD ITS FIRST TRADE SURPLUS IN 18 MONTHS. DAN RATHER ON CBS 1 ST LINE REPORT, MAY 25 SUMMARIZED THE PRESIDENT AND THE WATERGATE AFFAIR UNDER THE TITLE -" PRESIDENT NIXON TAKES TO THE ATTACK," WHILE ELLSBERG ATTACKED THE PRESIDENT ON NBC TODAY SHOW,

ROBERT PIERPOINT, CBS RADIO, JERRY LANDAY, ABC/ TV, RICHARD VALERIANI NBC/ TV AND DAN RATHER CBS/ TV ALL COMMENTED ON THE PRESIDENT' S SPEECH ON EVENING SHOWS AND THE COMMENTS ARE PRESENTED HERE. ALSO INCLUDED ARE THE COMMENTS OF RICHARD WAGNER FROM CBS RADIO. MAY 25, ON THE CONVERSATIONS OF AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN WITH SVNESE LEADERS.

1. THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS TO THE POWS: ROBERT PIERPOINT, CBS RADIO EVENING NEWS, MAY 24: " IT WAS OBVIOUS TO EVERY NEWSMAN IN THE ROOM THAT THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE MILITARY MEN BEFORE HIM AGREED COMPLETELY WITH THE PRESIDENT, BOTH IN HIS EXPRESSED DISLIKE OF DANIEL ELLSBERG AND HIS APPARENT DISTRUST OF THE NEWS MEDIA. BUT WHAT THE RETURNED PRISONERS MAY NOT HAVE UNDERSTOOD WAS THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WAS REALLY DEFENDING HIS ACTIONS IN THE WATERGATE SCANDAL WHEN HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR GREATER SECRECY IN NATIONAL SECURITY MATTERS. MUCH OF WHAT MR. NIXON SAID TODAY PARALLELED HIS FOUR THOUSAND WORD STATEMENT LAST TUESDAY ON WATERGATE, BUT TODAY HE MADE IT MORE POINTED. THE PRESIDENT INDICATED HE DID WHAT HE DID IN ORDERING A COVERUP OF ANY POSSIBLE CIA INVOLVEMENT IN WATERGATE AND THE ELLSBERG AFFAIR BECAUSE HE BELIEVES NATIONAL SECURITY IS PARAMOUNT. HE ALSO INDICATED HE WOULD CONTINUE SUCH ACTIVITIES WHENEVER NECESSARY IN THE FUTURE."

2. THE PRESIDENT SPEECH TO POWS: JERRY LANDAY, ABC TV EVENING NEWS, MAY 24: " IT WAS AN EXERCISE IN ADMIRATION, THE PRESIDENT AWASH IN A SEA OF TROUBLES FACED A SEA OF UNIFORMS, THE KIND OF AUDIENCE HE LIKES BEST, AND THE POWS UNDERSTANDABLY LIKE HIM, THEY CREDIT HIM WITH THEIR FREEDOM. THE FORMER CAPTIVES JUMPED TO THEIR FEET AND PASSIONATELY APPLAUDED FOR WELL OVER A MINUTE, A WELCOME RECEPTION FOR A PRESIDENT AT LOW EBB. HE CALLED THEM ALLIES AND MADE A PLEA FOR THEIR AID IN SUPPORT IN HIS UNCLASSIFIED

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WATERGATE ROLE, IN DOING SO THE PRESIDENT EXPANDED ON HIS ARGUMENT THAT ANY LINKS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE ALLEGED COVER- UP OF WATERGATE WAS SOLELY BECAUSE OF HIS DESIRE TO PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY, TO PRESERVE VITAL NATIONAL SECRETS... THE POWS APPLAUDED WILDLY, THEY APPLAUDED AGAIN AS THE PRESIDENT REITERATED THE LEAKS OF SECRET GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS MUST STOP, AN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO BOTH DANIEL

ELLSBERG' S PENTAGON PAPERS AND TO CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS RE-
CENTLY REMOVED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE BY FORMER COUNSEL JOHN
DEAN. THE DEAN PAPERS ARE NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE SENATE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON WATERGATE."

3. THE PRESIDENT' S SPEECH TO POWS
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